



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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Mr Neil McInnes has today been appointed Australia's first Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security.

Legislation establishing the Office was recently passed by the Parliament and is expected to come into operation in the near future. Creation of the Office flowed from a recommendation to that effect by Mr Justice Hope in his Royal Commission reports on the intelligence and security agencies.

The Inspector-General will occupy a pivotal position with respect to the accountability of Australia's security and intelligence agencies. The role of the Office will be to assist Ministers in ensuring that the agencies act with legality and propriety, and that they respect human rights. Powers of the Office will be widest in regard to ASIO, where there is, for example, provision for review of certain directions given to that organisation by the Attorney-General.

The Inspector-General will be able to conduct inquiries as a result of complaints from members of the public, at the request of a Minister or of his own motion.

In accordance with the provisions of the legislation, the Leader of the Opposition was consulted on the appointment of Mr McInnes.

Mr McInnes is a former journalist and newspaper editor, who joined the public service in 1978 and has been, since 1983, a Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. He was born in Sydney and was educated at Sydney Boys' High School and Sydney University before working as a journalist in Australia, India, France and the US.